



## Dennis A. Dingmann

August 20, 1945 - January 7, 2026

Dennis, a devoted husband, father, and brilliant engineer, passed away on January 7, 2026, at the age of 80. He was a man defined by his unwavering reliability, a sharp wit, and a lifelong commitment to his faith and family. Born and raised on a dairy farm near the community of St. Nicholas, Minnesota. He served in the US Air Force and obtained a B.A. from the University of Minnesota before setting out for work in California. Dennis carried the values of his upbringing with him when he moved west. He eventually settled in Palo Alto, where he and his wife, Sondra, built a life and raised five children.

As a father, he provided a foundation of strength and kindness, offering calm and steady support that was free of judgment. Dennis showed his love through acts of service and by ensuring his family had everything they needed. He wanted the best for his children and grandchildren, encouraging them to expand their worlds through travel and new experiences.

An intelligent and hardworking man, Dennis spent decades as an electrical engineer at Lockheed. His career was marked by precision and dedication, and he brought that same methodical curiosity to every part of his life. Dennis was a lifelong "tinkerer" who could often be found in the garage or the yard. Whether he was woodworking, maintaining his bicycles, or tending to his gardens, he found joy in the work of his hands. However, his truly happy place was riding motorcycles. He rode countless hours and miles over his lifetime. From his daily local rides, cross-country trips, visits back to Minnesota, to a

special motorcycle tour in the Alps, he always returned relaxed and refreshed. Beyond his hardworking nature and love of motorcycles, Dennis was known for his humor. He had a way of lightening the mood and making those around him smile. He was a faithful and reliable presence in the lives of his loved ones—the kind of man you could always count on.

He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 50 years, Sondra; 5 children, Joanna (Neil), Cerstin, Anthony (Jessica), Jeff and Julie; 5 siblings, Kathleen Utecht, Gene (Ann) Dingmann, Harvey (Teri) Dingmann, Larry (Donna) Dingmann, Ron (Scot Smith) Dingmann; 17 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren and a community of extended family who will miss his steady hand and playful humor.

There will be two services to honor Dennis's life, one in Minnesota and one in California:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at St. Nicholas Church, 15862 County Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389; viewing 9am; mass 11am.

Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 at 11:00am.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Nicholas Parish Cemetery

15862 County Road 165  
watkins, MN 55385

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 20. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
St. Nicholas, MN

## Mass

JAN 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
St. Nicholas, MN

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ I also got to know Dennis through working together at the Our Lady of the Rosary pastoral garden. We did not talk much but he is always helpful and often shows up to work outside of our scheduled workdays. One time I mentioned that I cannot find any wild thistle plants to feed the butterflies I was raising. He told me he has one that he had brought back from Minnesota because he missed the beautiful plant. He generously shared some pieces of the plant and I was able to raise a beautiful American lady to maturity. Thank you, Dennis, you will be missed.

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**Mary Ann Ho** - January 20 at 06:44 PM

PS

“ I knew Dennis mostly through working together in the Our Lady of the Rosary church garden. Once a month a few parishioners meet to do whatever seasonal maintenance is required. Dennis usually got there before anybody else and left after they did. Dennis is one of the most understated men I have ever known. He was good with tools but never mentioned he was an engineer. He had lots of stories about growing up on a farm in Minnesota but never talked about hard work there. It was more about simple things, like having farm cats. He was warm, kind, and generous with his time and talents. He will be missed.

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**Paul Saunders** - January 20 at 05:34 PM

MB

“ *Dennis and I attended a one room school with eight grades and one teacher In St Nickolas. With four students in our class it was easy to bond with fellow classmates. I have many fond memories of Dennis. We were collegial and competitive. I cannot remember a single confrontation. Of course having only one teacher and eight grades left us with lots of unassigned time. We did spend a lot of time with the slightly outdated encyclopedias. At about the fifth grade level the teacher decided to order math puzzle books to occupy our time and I believe to reduce excess time for mischief. Of course we decided this was an opportunity for a race and completed the book in a day. That was the end of the teacher making an effort to reign in our idle time.*

*By coincidence Dennis moved to Palo Alto California while I was in the Army stationed at Oakland Army base. We visited a few times since we were practically neighbors.*

*We have maintained a lifelong relationship. Unfortunately we will not be able to share new experiences. I cherish the fond memories.*

*Dennis, thank you for the friendship and memories.*



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**Marlin Boeckmann** - January 17 at 07:38 AM